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## Just How Sound Is U.S. Intelligence?

AMERICANS who have been disturbed by the very existence of the Castro-Communist menace in the neighboring island of Cuba, now confess equal concern that the official assessment in Washington of the Cuban situation should be so wrong that the insurgent attempt against the Castro regime failed utterly.

The failure itself is hardly more important than the misinformation at high levels in the U.S. government concerning the mood of the Cuban people, the strength of the Castro dictatorship, and the likelihood that the anti-Castro move would succeed. Obviously, Washington expected that it would succeed.

The misdirection of the U. S. effort on this occasion was ultimately the responsibility of President Kennedy who acted contrary to the advice of his secretary of state, Dean Rusk, and Undersecretary of State Chester Bowles. Mr. Kennedy was influenced by reports submitted by the Central Intelligence Agency. Quite clearly, the intelligence reports were wrong.

What is so very disturbing about all this is that if the CIA is ineffective in its operations in one instance (particularly where one would expect the agency to have relatively sound sources of information available) what can be said for its determinations on other occasions. In other words, how good is the 'U. S. intelligence system? How much can it be depended upon to be serving the nation in the exceptionally capable way that must be expected of it?

President Kennedy has accepted his part of the blame. He is pointing a finger at no one, except to note that investigations are in order. And indeed they are. This is neither the time nor the place for fingering a scapegoat over a foreign policy maneuver gone sour. It is a matter of constant concern, however, that policy-making officials in Washington have access to the best information possible. The evidence in the Cuban misadventure contends that this has not been the case.